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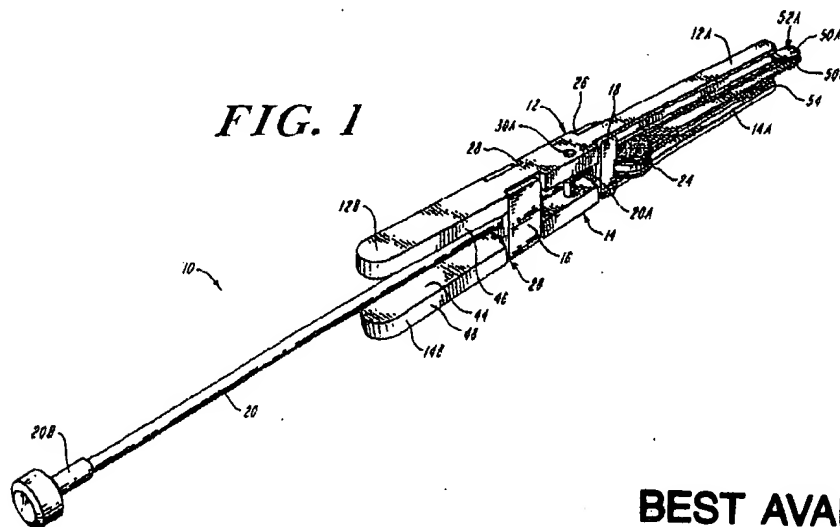
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(54) Medical installation tool

(57) A tool (10) for installing an object, such as an artificial disk prosthesis (24), between adjacent vertebrae includes a pair of opposed levers (12,14) separated by a fulcrum (16). Blade tips (50A,50B) are disposed at the distal end (12A,14A) of the levers (12,14). A pusher block (18) is disposed distally of the fulcrum (16), and upon actuation by forward movement of a pusher rod

(20), the pusher block (18) moves the artificial disk prosthesis (24) distally. The blade tips (50A,50B) may be inserted between adjacent vertebral bodies as the disk (24) moves forward thus causing the vertebral bodies to be separated until the disk is disposed between them. In one embodiment, the length of the blade tips (50A, 50B) may be selectively adjusted.

FIG. 1



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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A	* page 9, paragraph 3 - page 16, paragraph 1; claims; figures 5-11 *	18-24	
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A	DE 299 01 611 U (AESCULAP AG & CO KG) 22 April 1999 (1999-04-22) * claims; figures *	1-28	
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A	US 5 571 109 A (BERTAGNOLI RUDOLF) 5 November 1996 (1996-11-05) * column 13, line 12 - line 29; figure 11 *	1, 18, 25	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 14 September 2001	Examiner Kuehne, H-C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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